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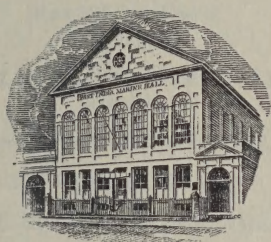
Peabody Museum of Salem



Report of the Director

1955

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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955

Salem, 3 January 1956

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM:

THE Museum today is more than a repository for the antique and the curious. There are, I think, few people who would argue this point. But, I also think, we have barely scratched the surface of the institution's potentialities.

The solid foundation of our museum, as with any other, rests on the importance of its collections. There is a current fashion in the museum world for "interpreting" collections for visitors. This is important and fun to do but, I suspect, from mixing anonymously with visitors in our own halls and those of other institutions, that objects can often be overinterpreted as in an extreme example which I noticed where dioramas have entirely replaced the specimens, now relegated to storage. People like to see the original objects, if possible, and with a certain amount of labeling and guidance their ability to place things in proper perspective is pretty good. For museum specimens are not the dead survivals of a living past; they are the living survivals of a dead past. They are all that remains of the ever receding background against which we live and die. They are a kind of precious, precarious immortality. These objects, like the writings of our ancestors, speak to us from a past that was once the future, once the present—bitter, pulsing, gay, with all its hopes, fears, and ambitions which we are heir to. Now, momentarily, we are in that river of time; that very thing of which we are trying to preserve the best memories. Time tarries not nor lingers for us to play with it. Ours is the obligation of preserving these relics and handing them on to those who follow. We should do this in a manner which shows an enlightened respect for the past, fulfillment of our responsibilities to our own generation, and which will be an inspiration to our successors. If we can do this and, at the same time, exhibit our material intelligently and make it available to the scholars of our day, without losing sight

of the basic humanity of the institution and its contents, then we shall be contributing our bit to the accumulating wisdom of the ages, and we can pass on a section of our heritage with confidence that it will continue to enrich the lives of others and that, perhaps, some part of it may last as long as mankind inhabits this world.

It is toward that end that we are endeavoring to institute a program whereby every important object, picture or manuscript in the museum will be in the best possible condition for preservation and will be stored or exhibited in a way which will not contribute to its deterioration. It is a high goal that will take time, money and skillful, intelligent, loving care. It must be done without decimating the resources of the institution. As a beginning we plan to use some of the funds contributed by our Fellows and Friends for this purpose, together with special gifts which may become available, from time to time. Our first large section of this project will be the restoration of our outstanding collection of maritime prints and paintings under the advice, guidance and inspiration of our new Trustee, Mr. Francis B. Lothrop.

There are several reasons why this was the best year financially which we have had in some time, but they all rest on the current economic prosperity of the country. The most substantial addition to our endowment funds was a bequest of over \$22,000 received under the will of the late Miss Sallie Shepard of Salem. Our Fellows and Friends, whose contributions totaled \$7,457.50, were more numerous and generous in 1955 than ever before. Our unrestricted general income was greatly helped by gifts from Mr. and Mrs. William Chisholm, East India Marine Society, Edward Devotion School of Brookline, Mrs. J. Frederick Hussey, Mr. Ralph Lawson, Mr. Francis B. Lothrop, Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Mr. Stephen Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Pingree, Mr. Alfred P. Putnam, Mr. Charles H. Taylor, Mr. Stephen Wheatland, Mrs. Richard Wheatland, Mr. Walter M. Whitehill. In addition Mr. Charles H. Taylor made a contribution in memory of Stephen W. Phillips, and the Hon. and Mrs. C. Gordon McKinnen made a

contribution in memory of Richard H. Wiswall. A contribution box placed in our Entrance Corridor for the first time yielded \$644.69 in eleven months.

The following people contributed for specific purposes: Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield for a new model of *Cleopatra's Barge* and for a guide in the Crowninshield Gallery during summer weekends; Mrs. Cornelius Crane and Mr. and Mrs. James McConnaughey for Polynesian research and publication; Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Lothrop for the restoration of maritime prints and paintings; Mr. Weston Howland for the purchase of scrimshaw work; Mr. Edward S. C. Handy for the David Kelly Research Fund; Mr. Raymond S. Wilkins for the Loring Memorial Room; Mr. Stephen Wheatland for the Publication Fund, the purchase of a ship model, the Loring Room, and towards the construction of the new stairway to East India Marine Hall attic; Mr. Augustus P. Loring, Mr. Ludlow Griscom, Mr. Ralph Lawson, and Mr. Francis B. Lothrop to the Publication Fund; and Mrs. John Fulton, Mrs. Franc Ingraham, Mr. Stephen Wheatland to the Richard Wheatland Fund.

When our late Trustee and Vice-President, William Crowninshield Endicott, Jr., died in 1936, he left a mass of notes and incomplete manuscripts relating to Joseph Peabody, his ships, and his descendants. Our Historian and Trustee, Walter Muir Whitehill, is preparing a book based on this material which will eventually be published under the imprint of the museum through the generosity of descendants of Joseph Peabody. Last year the following members of the family made contributions to The William C. Endicott Publication Fund, as it is called, towards the publication of this book: Mr. Harold J. Coolidge, Mrs. Julian L. Coolidge, Miss Theresa Coolidge, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Cutler, Mr. F. Trubee Davison, Mrs. S. S. Drury, Mrs. Richard D. Fay, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peabody Gardner, Mr. George P. Gardner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John L. Gardner, Mrs. Stedman Shumway Hanks, Mrs. Edward Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick M. Kimball, Mr. Augustus P. Loring, Mr. Caleb Loring, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. George G. Loring, Mrs. Frances B. MacAusland, Mrs. Allan L. McCue, Mr. Augustus

G. Means, Mr. Clarence Peabody Mitchell, Mrs. Clarence Van S. Mitchell, Mr. G. Gardner Monks, Dr. and Mrs. John Peabody Monks, Mrs. Rose P. Parsons, Mr. Harold Peabody, Mrs. Mary L. Sabine, Miss Clara Endicott Sears, Mrs. Ronald Tree, Mr. Oliver Wolcott, Mr. Samuel H. Wolcott.

Our attendance this year was 46,788, being sixty-nine less than in 1954. Two hundred eighty-six organized groups visited the museum. School classes, Scout troops, Day camps (including one each named for Davy Crockett and Robin Hood), church, civic, recreational and academic organizations were all represented, ranging from the Third Grade in Topsfield to the Harvard Class of 1930.

On September 9 our annual gathering of Fellows and Friends was held in East India Marine Hall. Dean John E. Burchard of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology spoke, in a learned and diverting manner, on "The Lonely Architect." As in other years the Fellows were entertained at supper by Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield at Peach's Point. Two special lectures for our Fellows, Friends, and other groups connected with the museum were generously given by that indefatigable dissector of stranded whales, Colonel Eugene S. Clark, Jr., of Sandwich, and enthusiastically received by his audiences.

In June we experimented with another special event, but we were unlucky with the weather. On the evening of the twenty-first an open house was held for Salem people. Staff members were on hand to answer questions and act as hosts. Unfortunately, about seven o'clock, the heavens opened up and, for the next hour and a half, the heaviest thunderstorm and downpour of the summer took place. One hundred and twenty-five wet but undiscouraged Salemites showed up and enjoyed the evening. The event well merits another try.

The many fine additions to our collections, typical of recent years, did not diminish in 1955. There were one hundred and forty-five accessions in Maritime History, seventy-two in Ethnology, fifty-one in Natural History.

In the maritime field new accessions were especially notable.

For instance, we received thirty-eight ship pictures—nearly all through gifts or bequests, fifty-six objects including models, nautical instruments, scrimshaw work, silver, naval weapons, and shipboard equipment. There were six painted or drawn portraits and thirty portrait prints. The number of lines and sail plans run to some four dozen sheets. Two thousand three hundred and thirty-nine maritime negatives were added to our rapidly growing collection of those important documents, and one thousand fourteen photographs of ships were given us for our files. Besides these there were twenty-seven kodachromes, and the Navy Department gave us a color sound movie of the history of the U. S. Navy in the War of 1812. The number of individual manuscripts, documents, letters, etc., cannot be totaled. In addition there were a dozen clipper ship advertising cards, several broadsides, and numerous steamship tickets, passports, and other odds and ends.

The ethnological accessions included seven hundred and sixty individual specimens. Of these, forty were from the Western Hemisphere (all but two from North America), two hundred and eleven were from Europe, six from Africa, three hundred and twenty-three from Asia (including two hundred and six from China and twenty-two from Japan), twelve from Indonesia, one hundred and sixty-seven from Oceania, and one of undetermined origin. One hundred and nine of the Oceania pieces were collected on the McConnaughey-Peabody Museum Expedition to Polynesia in 1955 under the direction of Donald S. Marshall.

The Natural History accessions break down into forty-six birds, two mammals, one reptile, and two marine invertebrates, plus a number of herbarium sheets and miscellaneous geological and botanical items.

Gifts to the Library, in addition to regular subscriptions, exchanges, and current purchases, included three hundred and twenty-three books, and ninety-three pamphlets, brochures, and miscellaneous magazines. Amongst the useful equipment we received was a globe given us by S. Abbott Hutchinson, forty-five drawing curves and instruments from Mrs. Clarkson Cran-

mer and Mrs. Parker Kemble, and ten badly needed filing cases and an office table from Mr. Augustus P. Loring.

The model of *Cleopatra's Barge* built by Richard Orr and presented by Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield is one of the most important additions to our model collection received in many years. This handsome piece of workmanship is on exhibition in an individual case in East India Marine Hall where it serves as an introduction to the Crowninshield Gallery.

In late summer it was announced that the celebrated English tea clipper *Cutty Sark* would be preserved as a historic ship and appropriate memorial to British seamen near the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. It is appropriate, too, that we should have a good model of this famous vessel and we are pleased that one was given us this year. When I first came to the Peabody Museum in 1931, Walter C. Leavitt had a little shop upstairs on St. Peter Street across Essex Street from our front door. I spent my noon hours watching him work on ship models and listening to his good salty talk. Later, he moved to Waldoboro, Maine, and we saw him but little for the rest of his life. Walter Leavitt's model of the *Cutty Sark* has now been given us in his memory by his widow and children. Not only are we delighted to have such a fine model of this ship but we are also happy to have an example of the best workmanship of one of our outstanding local ship-model builders.

Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield added to the contents of *Cleopatra's Barge* cabin with a gift of four silver beakers and a silver tankard. The tankard was made for George and Mary Crowninshield in 1757 by Knight Leverett and repoussed and altered to a pitcher in 1887, probably by the well-known silversmith Oberdiah Rich, for Ethel Sparks.

One of Salem's last romantic foreign trades was that with Zanzibar on the east coast of Africa. A series of Salem men were U. S. Consuls at that port and the association between Salem merchants and the government and merchant interests in Zanzibar was very close for over half a century. Two of the most eminent Salem Consuls there were Edward D. Ropes and his

son of the same name. Two granddaughters of the younger Ropes have given us treasures brought back by their ancestors. Mrs. Osgood Williams presented a bracelet covered with seed pearls sent to Mrs. Edward D. Ropes by Taria Topan, the most eminent Zanzibar merchant, and Miss Ruth R. Ropes gave a gold locket of elaborate India workmanship brought back by her grandfather.

Two newly acquired pieces of furniture are noteworthy. With all the dozens of sea chests in our collection we have never possessed one of the Chinese teakwood, brass-bound, double chests. We have now been given a very handsome one which belonged to Captain John Barton of Salem by Mrs. Stephen B. Stanton of New York. The chest is now on exhibition between the windows on the west side of John Robinson Hall. Another of the six original painted chairs from *Cleopatra's Barge* was given us for the cabin by George C. Taylor of Westwood.

Three years ago I remarked upon the gift of a cross staff from Alexander Vietor, one of three which he found, and, up to that time, the only ones discovered in this country. Now, another with a unique horizon vane has turned up. The new staff, marked Edward Holyoke, 1718, is well documented as it is still owned by the good doctor's descendants. The Reverend William S. Nichols and the Misses Mary E. and Margaret Nichols of Danvers deposited with us this exceedingly interesting nautical instrument.

Our scrimshaw work, that pastime which whiled away the hours for whalemens and other sailors, is, thanks to Mr. Weston Howland, one of the large and important collections in the country. Few of these pieces, however, come from our own Essex County. This year we were able to purchase two scrimshawed whale's teeth and one walrus tusk which were brought back from a whaling cruise about 1850 by Captain Farrell Dugno of Gloucester.

Dudley P. Rogers gave us a souvenir mug with a portrait of George Peabody to add to the memorabilia of our founder. And, from the estate of our old and good friend, John Minuse, we received six wooden plaques, showing famous Essex-built fish-

ing schooners, carved by another old friend, the late Lewis Storey of Essex.

It has been many years since we have received so many good ship paintings from so many different sources. Two handsome Francois Roux water colors of the French vessels *Montauvert*, 1853, and *Emilie*, 1857, were given us by Mrs. Michael Gavin of New York and Boca Grande, in memory of Francis Boardman Crowninshield. By bequest of Horace Follansbee of Swampscott we received paintings of two ships commanded by his grandfather, Alonzo Follansbee. These are a water color of the ship *Logan* of Boston by the Danish artist, C. Clausen, 1837, and another water color of the famous packet ship, *St. Denis* of New York by Frederic Roux, 1852. Miss Marian U. Chapman of Salem gave us a water-color sketch of the ship *Andes* in Singapore Harbor and a water color and pen and ink chart of the Columbia River done by Captain Isaac Needham Chapman. By purchase, we acquired a primitive water color of the Salem ship *Crusoe*, 1828, and Mrs. R. S. Brookings gave us a large oil painting overmantle of an eighteenth-century Venetian warship.

Robert J. Clark of Boston gave us several interesting paintings including a water color of the yacht, *Raven*, 1836, and an oil of the yacht, *Young Raven*, by Clement Drew, 1864, as well as water colors by Fred S. Cozzens of the yachts *Sylvia* and *Mermaid*. He also presented a small oil painted by George C. Hopkins in April, 1868, showing his father, Robert B. Clark, and his uncle, Arthur S. Clark (later the clipper ship captain and author of the famous book, *The Clipper Ship Era*) rowing at Neponsett, and a very interesting oil painting of the sailboat *Nellie* by William E. Norton. The *Nellie* was a ship's boat, rigged with Chinese junk lug sails, used by Arthur Clark for racing on the China coast.

When Winslow L. Knowles of Cape Cod was a little boy his father, Captain Winslow L. Knowles, sailed off for India in the ship *Southern Rights*. He never came back, for he died of cholera in Calcutta. This summer Mr. Knowles, now in his ninth decade and living in Andover, gave us an oil portrait of

his father together with a fine oil of *Southern Rights* painted by F. Tudgay.

Miss Frances Brooks of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, daughter of one of Salem's last prominent merchants, John Franklin Brooks, left us, in memory of her father, four oil paintings of his vessels; three by F. W. Halsall of the barks *D. Godfrey*, *Sea Gull*, and *Roebuck*. The other is of the bark *Said bin Sultan* by Clement Drew. These vessels all traded on the west coast of Africa. Miss Brooks also left us, in memory of her mother, an ornamental set of Cappa del Monte and two cabinets of miscellaneous china, glass, and small ethnological objects.

Two extremely interesting and historically important steamship oil paintings were given us this year. Our Trustee, Francis B. Lothrop, found a painting, done in 1873, by Antonio Jacobsen of the *S. S. Rotterdam* in an antique shop in Ogunquit. She was the first Holland-America line vessel which left Rotterdam for New York, October 15, 1872, preceding the Red Star Line by three months. This first *Rotterdam* was a ship of 1695 tons built at Glasgow and launched in 1872. She was wrecked September 26, 1883, off the Dutch coast with no loss of life. The other painting is of another Glasgow-built steamer, the *S. S. Acadia*. She was one of four sister ships, the others being the *Britannia*, *Caledonia*, and *Columbia*, all built in 1840 and owned by the British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, later known as the Cunard Line. *Acadia* sailed on her maiden voyage August 4, 1840, following *Britannia* which opened Cunard's monthly service between Liverpool, Halifax and Boston the previous July. *Acadia* reached Halifax in eleven days and continued in that service until sold in 1849 to the Navy of the North German Confederation and rebuilt as a frigate and renamed *Erzherzog Johann*. In 1852 she was sold to a Bremen firm, reconverted to the merchant service and sailed from that port August 3, 1853, for New York. Early in 1855 she was chartered by the British Government as a Crimean war transport and afterwards broken up on the Thames in 1858. The dramatic oil painting is by Clement Drew who probably

saw her coming into Boston. This picture, the only one known to us of this steamer, is the gift of our two good friends, Charles D. Childs and Harry Shaw Newman.

Mrs. F. D. Elwell of Oakland, California, gave us a handsome pastel portrait of Captain George Washington Frazer, master of the clipper ship *Sea Witch*. John L. Saltonstall presented a small pen and ink portrait of Captain Charles Saltonstall at the age of twenty-nine, the author of *The Navigator* published in London 1642 and, by purchase, we acquired a portrait of Captain Royal Prescott of Salem born about 1792, died October 4, 1830, who commanded the Salem brig, *Triton*.

Captain John H. Eagleston of Salem who was born September 23, 1825, and died on the twenty-fifth of February, 1852, was one of those adventurous men who traded for some years among the treacherous Fiji Islands and elsewhere in the Pacific. So well did he know those waters that when Commodore Charles Wilkes' exploring expedition set forth for the Pacific he was engaged as a pilot together with Captain Benjamin Vanderford, also of Salem. Captain Eagleston kept a journal of his trading adventures in the South Seas and his portrait, painted by Charles Osgood, hangs in the museum. In September Mr. Edgar B. Cole of Randolph gave us a companion portrait of Mary Chase, the beautiful second wife of Captain Eagleston, also painted by Osgood.

Few things interest us any more than the early voyages of exploration in the Pacific—particularly those of Captain James Cook. Richard B. Holman has stimulated that interest by giving us thirty different matted print portraits of Captain Cook, which are an important and handsome addition to our Cook collection.

Mrs. J. Templeman Coolidge sent us from Portsmouth several maritime prints, a Hadley quadrant, cabin lantern, half model and a good many miscellaneous books and photographs. This summer, Clarkson A. Cranmer, a friend with whom we have corresponded for many years, died suddenly and through the kind offices of Marion V. Brewington, his widow gave us Mr. Cranmer's entire collection of maritime material. This in-

cluded over three hundred photographs, photostats of manuscripts, scrapbooks, over a hundred and fifty photostats of ship lines, over a hundred and fifty books and pamphlets, two hundred and sixteen negatives, half models of a New Jersey catboat and a New Jersey sloop, and other things. Mr. Brewington, himself, gave us two half models of Martha's Vineyard catboats and a hundred and sixty-eight photographs.

The most important manuscript received is a waste book of Captain Clifford Crowninshield, 1784-1795, and Captain James Devereaux, 1826-1836, from William Crowninshield Waters. About twenty years ago Arthur H. Hayden of Bedford decided to do something about recording the very last days of sail on the Atlantic coast. He accumulated a listing of all American and Canadian sailing vessels, their cargoes and their voyages from 1928 through 1939. This invaluable collection of data he has now added to our reference library.

The maritime photograph collection continues to increase by leaps and bounds. Late this autumn Eric Steinfeldt sent us another twelve hundred negatives of ships taken in Galveston by Paul S. Verkin, Sr. These are a gift of Mr. Verkin to be added to the collection given last year. Alan B. Deitsch continued his gifts including a collection of seven hundred and fifty-six Coast Guard negatives and many prints. And Eric Johnson, one of the youngest and most enthusiastic collectors of steamship photographs, gave us many more prints and negatives.

In Marseille during the past summer, there was held a special exhibition of paintings by members of the Roux family. The exhibition was organized by Jean Meissonnier, a private collector of Roux paintings. He very kindly sent us a set of seventy-four photographs of all the Roux paintings in that exhibition, many of them privately owned. This is a substantial addition to our Roux collection.

One of the handsomest additions to the ethnological department was deposited by Hon. and Mrs. Foster Stearns of Exeter, New Hampshire. It is a collection of one hundred sixty-three Chinese personal seals or "chops." These range from tiny

to rather large pieces and they are made of a wide variety of materials including ivory, crystal, glass, wood, horn, amber, stone, jade, bronze, and other metals. It is hoped that our new Honorary Curator of Chinese Ethnology, Mr. Chiang Yee, "The Silent Traveller" and student of Chinese calligraphy, will eventually prepare a catalogue of this collection for us.

From Colonel Erwin F. Carey of the U. S. Air Force we received eleven ancient Chinese bronze weapons including a sword supposed to be one of the best preserved in existence. Colonel Carey obtained these weapons from a Catholic missionary with whom he became friendly during World War II when he was flying into northern China. From a region near that part of the world we obtained a Tibetan priest's apron carved of human bones. These aprons are among the most difficult of the Tibetan Lama's paraphernalia to obtain and we had none previously in our collection.

Mr. Norman H. Cain added the beaded sash, knife, and moccasins worn by the Mohawk Indian, Oronhyatekha, to the beaded coat which he deposited last year and gave this year. These are the garments worn by the Mohawk when presented to Queen Victoria in the early 1860's. The only other important Indian material received was a Plains saddle bag, pipe bag, and moccasins from Mrs. Henry Beston of Nobleboro, Maine, and an ancient Penobscot Indian wooden box from Willard C. Cousins.

Early in the year there arrived a large packing case containing seventy-nine modern ethnological specimens from the Society Islands collected by Mr. and Mrs. James McConaughy on their 1954 expedition for the museum. Mrs. Margaret and Mr. Guy E. Nichols of Rockland, Maine, gave us eleven Samoan specimens collected about 1914.

Mrs. J. Templeman Coolidge presented a large model of a Malay proa and her son, Mr. Usher P. Coolidge, a handsome Japanese musical instrument called a koto. We obtained by exchange with the Denver Art Museum, a long carved paddle from Raivavae in the Austral Islands of a type not before represented in our collections.

Two revolvers with interesting histories came in during the year. John F. Grodon gave us a revolver carried by Robert Louis Stevenson while he was in the South Seas and inscribed "R.L.S. from Sir Percy and Lady Shelley." Edward B. Marsden deposited for our Stanley-Livingstone exhibition, a Colt revolver which belonged to David Livingstone and which is now shown in the case alongside Livingstone's sextant and magnet. George M. Sheahan, Jr., one of our young promising Polyneesian ethnologists, who was tragically killed this summer in an automobile accident shortly after his return from Cambridge, England, gave us a copy of his seven hundred and forty-five page manuscript compilation of available information relating to the Marquesas Islands, and his sister, Miss Joan Sheahan, after her brother's death, gave us his manuscript, Marquesan Bibliography.

The Natural History accessions this year were few. Several fresh specimens were obtained and mounted to replace old and worn-out birds on exhibition and Miss Snyder made up a number of birds into study skins. Some of the new birds added this year, however, were species long missing in Essex County. There was the first County specimen of a snowy Egret taken in Salem last May by Richard Kleber of the Museum of Science and, through his kindness, obtained in trade for a Yellow-headed Blackbird collected by Miss Snyder in Chatham in September which was the second known specimen in the state. A Whistling Swan from Rockport, the first specimen from the mainland for a half century, was also acquired, and a Sooty Tern found dead on Plum Island after the September 1, 1954 hurricane by David Freeland, was turned over to us by the Massachusetts Audubon Society. From the late Blanche Merritt Porter of Lynn came eighty-one herbarium sheets of beautifully mounted local grasses, and we purchased from a gunner the first County specimen of a gray fox.

Gifts to the Library included Lloyd's Registers and forty-nine numbers of *Syren* and *Shipping* from Robert E. Peabody, Lloyd's Registers from Joseph E. Fellows, Jr., four volumes of Lloyd's confidential index given in memory of Robert A. Mc-

Roberts by his widow, thirteen volumes of Department of Commerce Navigation from Robert B. Applebee, and thirteen volumes of Yachting Registers from Miss Eleanor Stephens, and almost complete files of *Rudder* and *Yachting* together with nearly a hundred other volumes in memory of Horace Crosby Hartshorn from Mrs. John McCallister.

The most extensive research this year was carried on by Donald S. Marshall, Research Anthropologist for Polynesia. He left for a second expedition to the South Seas in November 1954 and returned to Salem over a year later, December 18, 1955. After stopping at Tahiti he went on to the Cook Islands where he stayed for the next three months collecting data for his own ethnological work on Rarotonga and Mangaia. Returning to Tahiti he spent most of the summer working with Mr. J. Frank Stimson on their collaboration preparing the Stimson papers for publication. This work was supported by Mr. and Mrs. James McConnaughey through our Polynesian Research Fund. In August, Mr. Marshall went with the McConnaugheys on their yacht, *Mareva*, for an ethnological survey of Raivavae in the Austral Islands. Here they spent two weeks making a preliminary survey of the island and collecting material. Returning to Tahiti they went on another short survey to Tikehau Island in the Tuamotus.

In September Mr. Marshall left Tahiti for New Zealand and once more visited all the museums containing ethnological collections in that Commonwealth. He then went on to Sydney and, from there, to Europe, England and home. In the course of his work in the South Pacific he collected ethnographic and linguistic data on Tahiti, Mangaia, and Rarotonga in the Cook Islands, Raivavae in the Austral Islands, and Tikehau in the Tuamotu Islands. His recorded data includes fifteen hundred journal pages plus specialized notes on various subjects, seven hundred and fifty black and white negatives of ethnographic subjects and three hundred and fifty color slides, fifteen reels of tape recordings of varied dialects and types of speech, plus collections of contemporary ethnographic materials. He collected notes on Polynesian objects in thirty-four different museums in-

cluding fifteen hundred negatives of museum artifacts from Polynesia, measured one hundred and fifty Polynesian skulls, collected a large amount of linguistic data, worked on a dictionary of the southern Cook Islands with a committee of the islanders, lectured on linguistics and museums to various groups of teachers in the Cook Islands, and gave numerous radio talks in New Zealand on the Peabody Museum and its activities. He also lectured before many clubs, meetings, and university classes. The museums where he studied material and worked with local personnel included besides those in Tahiti and Suva in the Fiji Islands, institutions in Auckland, Wellington, Napier, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin in New Zealand; the Australian Museum at Sydney, and the Raffles Museum in Singapore. In Europe he studied the collections at the University Museum in Zurich, the Ethnographical Museum in Gothenburg, Sweden, the National Museum in Copenhagen, the Dutch Museums in Leyden, the Hague, and Amsterdam. Moving over to London he spent considerable time studying the collections in the ethnographic department of the British Museum, the Maritime Museum, private collections of Mr. James T. Hooper and Captain A. F. W. Fuller, the University Museums at Oxford and Cambridge, and the collections in Glasgow and Edinburgh. He also flew over to Paris for two days to study the collections at Musée de l'Homme. It was a fruitful trip and Mr. Marshall collected sufficient material to work on for many a long day to come.

Mr. Osgood Williams spent considerable time on a thorough and wide research into the history of the steamship *Unicorn* (1836), the first Cunarder to cross the Atlantic, and he prepared a brief article on that vessel for a forthcoming book being written by Mr. Erik Heyl.

Miss Dorothy E. Snyder spent most of her time this year with Ludlow Griscom, our Honorary Curator of Ornithology, writing and seeing through the press *The Birds of Massachusetts* which the museum published early in October. This is the first definitive book on the birds of this state since the Forbush volumes were published more than a quarter of a century ago. The

museum was fortunate in having the two best people possible available to write the book. Birds which have occurred in Essex County are so marked with a summary of them while there are references throughout the book to specimens in the Peabody Museum. It was possible to have this book of nearly three hundred pages off the press in time to go on sale at the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union in Boston.

In addition to *The Birds of Massachusetts* we also published this year a check list of the Francis B. Lothrop Collection of whaling prints and our first full-sized color reproduction of one of our water-color paintings. The painting selected for this purpose was the Antoine Roux of Joseph Peabody's ship *Francis* painted in 1816. An edition of two hundred and ten prints in collotype, colored by stencil, was printed by the Meriden Gravure Company. The early sale of this print is such as to be very encouraging and we hope to be able to reproduce more of our paintings in the future. Our first edition of Wedgwood plates were sold out by Christmas, 1954, and a new edition ordered. These arrived in the spring and we now have ample stock of both blue and gray ship plates. Our President, Mr. Stephen Wheatland, had Rudolph Ruzicka make a beautiful color reproduction of our seal for presentation to benefactors of the museum.

As has been customary the four numbers of *The American Neptune* were seen through the press under my editorship and with all business details and subscriptions handled by Mrs. Priscilla Papin. Mr. Charles H. P. Copeland compiled the five-year index which appeared in the October number.

Our most ambitious special exhibition this year was the summer display from June 15 to September 15 of the Francis B. Lothrop collection of whaling pictures. This superb collection, which filled the Loring Room, was put on with the collaboration of Mr. Lothrop who prepared the check list of it. There were some hundred and forty pictures in the show, which was one of the most popular we have ever held.

In March we had an exhibition, also in the Loring Room, of natural color photographs entitled "Woodland Portraits" by

Jeanette Klute with a preview of the exhibition on the twenty-eighth for our Friends and Fellows. The Lothrop exhibition was followed by a show for two weeks only in late September of the prize winning black and white photographs of nature subjects selected in a national competition of photography clubs. During November the room was filled with water-color paintings of New England scenes lent by the Ford Motor Company, and this was followed in December by the Vincent Short collection of steamship paintings.

The Short collection of twenty-two paintings of Boston Harbor steamships, all but three of which are by the talented artist, Fred Pansing, will remain on display until March 15, 1956. It is one of the most striking exhibitions we have ever held for Pansing was a good artist as well as knowledgeable about steamboats. All the ships except one are Boston Harbor boats which ran to Hingham, Nantasket, Nahant, and other points around Massachusetts Bay. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Vincent Short who arranged to lend us the collection and Mr. Edwin Sears who has given us considerable information about Pansing and about the steamers.

Two of the most ambitious undertakings were sound exhibits put on by Miss Snyder in collaboration with Miss Frances Burnett and Mr. William H. Chisholm. The spring show was entitled "Thrushes Sing" and a selection of these fine songsters were seen and heard against a forest background painted by Philip Von Saltza. The winter exhibit is the most successful yet attempted, and shows the birds around a winter feeding station attached to the side of a shingled house, again with a painted background by Mr. Von Saltza. Mr. Chisholm did the technical work with the sound exhibits and read the script for the tape recordings.

In May a permanent exhibit of the relics and letters of Sir Henry M. Stanley and Dr. David Livingstone was installed in East Hall Gallery. The next month a selection of lithographs of Essex County, mostly coastal scenes, by Lester Hornby was hung in the entrance corridor. This stayed on until November

when an exhibition of photographs of oil tankers replaced the lithographs.

Our exhibits of the month were interrupted by some structural difficulties in the entrance corridor but, for all that, ten of these little shows were put on. These included in January, winter Finches showing the Grosbeaks and Crossbills; in February, the portrait and relics connected with Captain John ("Mad Jack") Percival; in March, the reproduction of the famous Sudbury Bow, the only Massachusetts Indian bow in existence; in April, driftwood sculpture with material loaned by B. R. Wood of Lynn and Miss Ruth R. Ropes; in May, pictures of Sanford Line steamships lent by Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Sanford; and in June, a collection of ancient Chinese weapons from Colonel Carey. July and August we skipped but in September we had the first Essex County snowy Egret; in October, the first known printing from Japan; in November, a goose gun used for commercial hunting in the nineteenth century and a gun from the whaler *Progress*; and in December, the Dickcissel together with Audubon prints of the bird. Selections of Audubon prints were also hung from time to time in the Natural History rooms and appropriate prints were hung next to the sound exhibits.

That our collections are appreciated and good use made of them is evident by the number of loans made this year. For instance, in January paintings and sketches by George Chinnery relating to the China trade were lent to the Brooklyn Museum. Five ship paintings were lent for a special exhibition to the Delaware Art Center in Wilmington. Portrait paintings and drawings also relating to the China trade were lent for a special exhibition at the Los Angeles Museum. A jinricksha was lent to Paramount Pictures for publicity purposes. Two Australian churingas or bullroarers, powerful magical creations, were lent for study to the Boston Athenæum, and a collection of Japanese toys was lent to the Museum of Fine Arts for a television program. A selection of Australian material culture was sent to the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, and Japanese material for a special display went two blocks to the Universalist Church in Salem. Twenty-four ship paintings were lent for a special ma-

rine exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art during August and these were then hung in the Art Museum at La Jolla, California, during October. A very large collection of Japanese duplicate material was lent for exhibition to Syracuse University to enliven their seminars on Japanese culture during the summer. Material relating to Salem commerce was sent to the State House for Salem's Industrial Exhibition Week, and more material was lent for a New England Council Exhibition at the Statler Hotel. Seventeen ship paintings were lent to the Old Gaol Museum in York, Maine, for the month of August, and our kodachromes, mammals, birds, and rather useful old microscope were used at such diverse places as the Phillips School in Salem, the State Teachers College, the Tower School in Marblehead, the Peabody Grammar School, assorted groups from Beverly, the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, and by the Massachusetts Audubon Society teachers working in the Essex County schools.

Besides the regular meetings of the Essex County Ornithological Club, Nature Photography Club, Peabody Museum Marine Associates, and Power Squadron classes, there were several special meetings at the museum. In January the Rotary Anns of Salem met in the Loring Room where they were given a lecture by Mr. Charles H. P. Copeland. Mrs. Ernest S. Dodge talked on birds in February, March, and May in the Loring Room to classes from the fifth grade of the Phillips School and grammar schools from Lynn. In July, Mr. Copeland and I gave lectures to the Radcliffe summer school group on Museum studies. And, in October, I lectured in the Loring Room to the China Students Club of Boston on primitive pottery. In early summer sixty-four men were inducted into the Navy in East India Marine Hall as the Essex County Company by Rear Admiral R. A. Theobald, USN (Ret.). In September, Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Lothrop and Mrs. Crowninshield gave a party for some sixty people and brought them over to the museum in the evening to see the Lothrop exhibition of whaling prints, the Crowninshield Gallery, East India Marine Hall, and other parts of the museum which was opened and lighted for the occasion.

One of the most enjoyable little events of the year occurred when Colonel Eugene Clark invited the staff of the museum down to his home in Sandwich in September for a "whaleburger" cook-out. Whaleburgers were a new kind of fodder for all of us and we enjoyed it immensely. We can say with authority that they are delicious, at least the way Colonel Clark cooks them. It was also a pleasure to see his handsome collection of scrimshaw which is arranged like a little museum in one room of his house.

Considerable national publicity was given us this year when *Holiday* magazine in its August number published an article on the museum by Samuel E. Morison with a large two-page colored photograph of a selection of museum material taken in East India Marine Hall. Another widely distributed article was written by Charles Copeland and appeared in the February *American Heritage*. The usual number of outside talks was given by members of the staff. Miss Snyder gave illustrated popular lectures on birds of Essex County, birding in Mexico, and other topics to various organizations and one scientifically important paper entitled "Photographic Proof" before the American Ornithologists' Union. Mr. Copeland spoke several times on Salem commerce, and I was interviewed three times respectively, over radio stations WHDH of Boston, WLYN of Lynn, and WESX of Salem. Mr. Copeland and I both gave lectures at the Munson Institute for Maritime History at Mystic, Connecticut, and I lectured to the faculty of the Salem State Teachers College, Salem Rotary Club, and Peabody Historical Society, while Mr. Copeland spoke to the Bostonian Society. Mrs. Ernest S. Dodge spoke several times on birds to the Tower School Bird Club.

Miss Ruth R. Ropes attended the Munson Institute for Maritime History during the summer and Mr. William H. Chisholm took a course in cultural anthropology under Robert H. Lowie at Harvard Summer School. Miss Snyder gave a course in intermediate bird study in the spring with five evening lessons and two field trips. There was the usual maximum attendance and Miss Snyder found the group an unusually interesting and alert one to work with. She also conducted a Girl Scout nature

work-shop here for seven weeks which was a major project. There was an overflow attendance for these evening meetings with instruction on marine invertebrates, mammals, and birds. The reception of this course well justified the time spent in arranging it at the request of the Girl Scout executive.

Miss Snyder attended the entire session of the American Ornithologists' Union and all of us went to the usual quota of meetings in our professional groups. Mr. Osgood Williams attended the annual meeting of the Steamship Historical Society of America at New York where they visited the liner *United States*, had a tour of the New York Naval Shipyard, and also saw the new carrier *Saratoga* under construction. In September he attended the autumn meeting of the Steamship Historical Society at Mystic.

In mid-April Mr. and Mrs. Williams sailed from Montreal on the old Cunarder *Ascania* arriving at Liverpool on April 30. While in England he was cordially welcomed by Commander Frank Carr of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, worked with Mr. H. Phillip Spratt at the Science Museum and was entertained by Mr. E. C. Randall, Secretary of the Thames Shiplovers and Ship Models Society, who enabled him to visit the famous old Baltic Exchange where the business of ship chartering and grain trading was carried on. While in Brussels Mr. Williams spent a pleasant evening with Mr. Paul Scarceriaux, Chairman of the Belgian Nautical Research Association which is doing splendid work in the field of maritime history. Other visits in the interests of the museum had to be cancelled because of the British rail and steamship strike in early June. Mr. and Mrs. Williams returned via Montreal on the Holland-America *Ryndam* in late June.

Although we were rather short-handed at times this year, nevertheless, the work of cataloguing, filing, and caring for the collections continued as time and opportunity permitted. Mr. Williams continued his cataloguing and filing of the splendid Verkin collection of plate and film negatives of steamships taken during the past forty years or so at Galveston, and our new volunteer, Mr. U. Haskell Crocker gave able and steady as-

sistance once a week cataloguing the Heal collection of six thousand steamship negatives acquired in 1954. Colonel Smith and his volunteer assistants completed the cataloguing of the large Baron Ino Dan collection of hair ornaments and toilet articles accessioned over ten years ago. Our program of inventorying and locating of our ethnological collections progressed with the completion of twenty-seven cases in Weld Hall and Weld Hall Gallery, four cases in East Hall Gallery, and twelve storage cases in Weld Cellar.

Miss Mary B. Osgood and Mrs. Osborn Palmer, our volunteer assistants in the Ethnology Department, have placed typological index cards under all the geographic divisions excepting for the Americas, Europe, and smaller countries of Asia. This makes our card file far easier to use.

Miss Snyder was honored by being elected a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union in October, and I was elected to the Executive Committee of The American Folklore Society for 1955. In addition to my museum duties I wrote a history of the Salem Five Cents Savings Bank and compiled a report for the Massachusetts Humane Society and saw both of these works through the press.

We were fortunate in having more volunteers than ever. In addition to those already mentioned, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Woods worked every Tuesday from January 1 through March cataloguing our extensive chart collection. Miss Lucy Davis helped us with cataloguing and guiding during the month of July. Mr. Thomas Rice once again repaired some of our ship models and, in the late autumn, Miss Ruth Parker began volunteer work in the Library. Mrs. William Brewer helped us with cataloguing of steamship negatives and Miss Sybil Tucker has been aiding Miss Snyder in the Natural History Department. Mrs. Ernest S. Dodge also aided in the Ethnology Department doing inventory work and lecturing to school groups on birds for Miss Snyder. Our two most faithful volunteers, Colonel George L. Smith, and Osgood Williams continue to give full time to their respective departments. Our new Trustee, Francis B. Lothrop, in the autumn began a complete inventory of all of our marine

prints and paintings, noting their condition and repairs needed.

At the June meeting of the Trustees for the first time Mr. Wheatland, the President, showed a copy of a certificate of appreciation for services rendered the museum that was designed by Mr. Rudolph Ruzicka already mentioned. It was voted that the first three copies be presented to Mrs. Francis B. Crowninshield, Mr. Osgood Williams, and Colonel George L. Smith.

Several substantial repairs and improvements were made to our plant during the year. A new stairway, connecting East Hall Gallery and the attic of East India Marine Hall, was completed in March, and opens up the vast area of the East India Marine Hall attic for storage purposes. Hitherto, we have been able to reach it only by a sixty-foot iron ladder up the outside of the building. Mrs. Stephen Wheatland aided us in improving the appearance of our grounds by setting out numerous trees and shrubs and overseeing the placing of them. Our exhibits in the Marine Room have been improved by the installation of new inconspicuous lighting fixtures which light the room evenly, and new lights have also been installed in the office of the maritime historian.

There were more staff changes this past year than we have ever had before in one calendar year.

Mr. Stephen W. Phillips, who has been a member of our staff longer than anyone else with the exception of his close friend, Lawrence W. Jenkins, died suddenly on July 6. He was elected Honorary Curator of Pacific Ethnology in 1926, but made his first gift to the museum as early as 1900. Shortly thereafter he became intensely interested in our Pacific collection. This material, particularly that from Polynesia, included some of the unique specimens of the world as well as a quantity unapproached in any other American museum. These important early nineteenth-century specimens were among the "artificial curiosities" contributed to the East India Marine Society by Salem captains who traded in the Pacific. Because of the unscientific collecting methods of the captains there were unfortunate gaps in the collection which if filled would make it vastly more important for both exhibition and study purposes.

Mr. Phillips began a systematic program to remedy that situation and build up our collection and library on Polynesia and related areas of the Pacific. His wide knowledge of the literature and of Polynesian material culture enabled him to buy astutely and he increased the size and quality of the collection more than any other single person has ever done. From 1900 to 1952 one hundred and thirteen accessions are credited to his name which include over a thousand specimens and hundreds of books and pamphlets. It is impossible to enumerate here all the important additions made by him. They included, however, such outstanding accessions as the Goodale Hawaiian collection sent back by Rev. and Mrs. Asa Thurston, two of the first missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands; the Stephen W. Reynolds Hawaiian Collection; an important early Marquesan collection made by French Catholic missionaries; the Captain John F. Parker Samoan collection (Captain Parker was the first U. S. Navy governor of American Samoa); a unique Hawaiian carved figure which he purchased from W. O. Oldman, the great collector and dealer; the Admiral Hugh Rodman collection of tapa cloth; the H. F. Aiken Pacific library; two water-color paintings done by John Webber on Captain James Cook's third voyage; and most recently, in 1952, the J. Stanley Gardiner Fijian collection. It is planned to publish an appreciative brochure on Mr. Phillips' contributions which will set forth in some detail their scientific and historical importance. Mr. Phillips was not satisfied with merely collecting and improving the collections. He firmly believed that an institution which possessed good things should publish them for the benefit of others and place them on record in the literature. To this end he stimulated the writing of our Polynesian catalogues and financially assisted in their publication. I have always regretted that I became so busy with administrative and other details that time could not be made for completing the remaining sections of the Polynesian catalogues, which we had long planned, during his lifetime. I fondly remember the many pleasant evenings and Sunday morning breakfasts spent with Mr. Phillips when we were working on the Cook Islands adzes, and the New Zealand and Marquesan

sections of the catalogue. With increased staff I hope to be able to finish this project and, as a matter of fact, the manuscript for the section on central Polynesia is nearly completed. While the Pacific was his primary interest Mr. Phillips was also concerned with the welfare of the institution as a whole. He contributed generously to many special projects and on numerous occasions enabled staff members to take field or professional trips which would broaden their horizons and benefit the museum. Among other things he had built for the museum the very fine model of the ketch *Eliza* which his ancestor, Captain Stephen Phillips, sailed to Calcutta for Elias Hasket Derby. Seldom is an institution fortunate enough to have such a wise benefactor of one of its primary interests over such a long period. Stephen W. Phillips' influence on our Pacific collections will be self evident as long as the museum exists.

On July 1 Mr. Charles H. P. Copeland who has been our Librarian and Curator of Maritime History for the past seven years resigned to become Librarian of the Salem Public Library. In appreciation of his work and knowledge he was voted the title of Honorary Curator of Salem Maritime History on our staff. At the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Trustees in November, the vacancy was filled by the election of Mr. Marion V. Brewington as Curator of Maritime History and also as Assistant Director of the Museum. Miss Ruth Robinson Ropes who has served a long apprenticeship as Museum Assistant was promoted in the autumn to Assistant Curator of Maritime History and our other Museum Assistant, Mr. William Hussey Chisholm, who has efficiently overseen our maintenance problems during the past year, was made Superintendent of Buildings. With the beginning of the new year Mrs. Priscilla Papin will take over some of our financial work and responsibility to ease the load on our overworked Treasurer.

Another sad event occurred in early November when Mrs. Dorothy Miller, my part time secretary for the past year, died suddenly. Her place was taken temporarily by Miss Ann Copeland. Miss Sybil Tucker was employed through the generosity of Mrs. Crowninshield as a guide on weekends during July and

August. A number of important honorary appointments were made during the year. Mr. and Mrs. James McConnaughey who, for several years, have been generously supporting a program of Polynesian research being carried on by Donald S. Marshall were made Field Associates for Polynesian Research. Albert Goodhue, Jr., was elected Honorary Curator of Maritime Paintings, David Pingree Wheatland was elected Honorary Curator of Nautical Instruments, and Mr. Chiang Yee was elected Honorary Curator of Chinese Ethnology. Miss Mary E. Osgood and Mrs. Osborn Palmer, who have helped us so faithfully for the past four years, were made Volunteer Associates in Ethnology.

The Staff and Trustees were also saddened by the sudden death of the Secretary of our Board, Richard Hall Wiswall, who died on the day of our annual meeting in March. For many years he had taken a deep interest in the museum and we have benefited much from his legal and financial advice which was always given in the most friendly and humorous manner at our meetings. We shall miss him very much. The vacancy on the board was filled by the election of Mr. Francis Bacon Lothrop of Manchester and Boston, and Mr. Walter Muir Whitehill was elected to fill the office of Secretary.

During the summer months and early fall, because of these changes and the absence of two of the staff at summer school, we were very shorthanded. I am always impressed, and particularly so during an emergency period, with the competence, industry, and good humor of our staff. A director's life is simplified with such a staff.

ERNEST S. DODGE
Director

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CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT

for the year 1955

Income from Invested Funds for Current Purposes	\$47,637.55
Gifts for Current Purposes	9,150.07
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,584.85
	<u>\$58,372.47</u>
Staff Salaries, Accession of Collections and Administrative Expenses	\$38,714.43
Building Expenses—Janitors, Fuel, Insurance and Repairs	16,155.20
Reserves and transfers to Special Funds	3,502.84
	<u>\$58,372.47</u>

In addition to the gifts for current general purposes shown above, the museum received \$14,000.00 for the continuation of studies and research on Polynesia, \$1,941.00 for publications, \$1,370.57 for various specific purposes, \$27,117.39 to be added to the endowment funds and \$7,442.50 as subscriptions from Fellows and Friends.

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OF THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM

1955

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